

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 795
By Maggart

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Reverend David R. Choby upon his appointment as Bishop of the Diocese of Nashville.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those venerable priests, who, through their great capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, have enriched the lives of the people of their respective communities and who have distinguished themselves as leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Bishop-elect David R. Choby, who has served as administrator of the Diocese of Nashville since November 2004, is one such extraordinary person; his life and ministry affirm his commitment to the principles of faith, perseverance, and hard work; and

WHEREAS, born in Nashville to Raymond and Rita Choby, both now deceased, David Choby was educated at St. Patrick, St. Edward, and Cathedral Catholic elementary schools, as well as Father Ryan High School, all in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, he later studied at St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa, the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome, where he completed his licentiate in Canon Law; and

WHEREAS, Bishop-elect Choby was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Nashville on September 6, 1974; following ordination, he held a variety of pastoral and administrative positions, including associate pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Madison, Tennessee, administrator of St. Ann Parish in Nashville, and three years in residence at Christ the King Parish in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, for much of his priesthood he has served on the diocesan tribunal, the Church's "legal" branch, which explains and interprets the laws of the Church to maintain order and for the protection of the community; and

WHEREAS, Bishop-elect Choby served on the faculty of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, from 1984 to 1989, and continues to serve on the seminary's board of trustees; he has also completed two five-year terms on the dioceses' Presbyteral Council College of Consultors; and

WHEREAS, since 1989, Bishop-elect Choby has served as Dean of the Northeast Deanery and Pastor of St. John Vianney Parish, where he is described as, "a mentor, friend, and holy priest who loves the Church." Under his leadership, the Gallatin, Tennessee, parish dedicated a new church and opened a school, which currently has an enrollment of 160 children in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade; the bishop-elect has been a "good steward of faith" and leaves a legacy of wonderful opportunity for growth at St. John Vianney; his daily presence will be greatly missed by his beloved parishioners; and

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2004, the College of Consultors elected Bishop-elect Choby to serve as diocesan administrator following Bishop Kmiec's departure in October of 2004. In December of 2005, Pope Benedict XVI named Bishop-elect David R. Choby to lead and shepherd the Nashville diocese, and Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States, made the announcement in Washington, D.C., on December 20, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the native Nashvillian is only the second priest of the Diocese of Nashville to be chosen as its bishop, as the others have all come from outside the diocese. Bishop-elect Choby will be ordained as the 11th Bishop of Nashville on February 27, 2006, at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, the church of his childhood; he succeeds Bishop Edward U. Kmiec, who was named bishop of Buffalo, New York, in August 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Diocese of Nashville is comprised of thirty-eight counties in middle Tennessee, including 75,000 Catholics in fifty-one parishes and three missions; a holy, talented and committed minister, Bishop-elect Choby will now shepherd a large diocese of faith-filled people, and will work with them in fulfilling the mission of the Church; and

WHEREAS, Bishop-elect Choby has been blessed with intelligence, courage, and wisdom, gifts that serve him well in the Episcopal life and ministry that he embraces. Bishop Kmiec, who has come to know him well, describes Bishop-elect Choby, as “one endowed with wonderful qualities of priestliness and pastoral zeal, which he will now bring to his new office and ministry as bishop of Nashville”; and

WHEREAS, mixing unflinching loyalty to the Catholic Church and its teachings with his uniquely personal touch, Bishop-elect Choby epitomizes the spirit, compassion, and high level of commitment that are characteristic of true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud this outstanding citizen for his dedication to the parishioners of the Diocese of Nashville, the holy Catholic Church, and the citizens of the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that that we honor Bishop-elect, David R. Choby, for his life's work and many years of devotion to the common good of the Church and its people. We join the many parishioners in the Diocese of Nashville in celebrating his holy appointment, and we extend our best wishes for a happy and successful future as he fulfills the office and duties of Bishop.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.